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# LING 270S.01: Introduction to Linguistics

Mizuki Miyashita

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu](mailto:mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu)

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# LINGUISTICS 270S

Autumn Semester 2013, The University of Montana

## Syllabus

Time & Place: MWF 11:10 – 12:00 pm (FA302) Office: Social Science 212  
Instructor: Dr. Mizuki Miyashita Phone: 243-5164 (office)  
Office hours: T 12-1, F 1-2, or by appointment Email: mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu

### Objectives

This course introduces the basic knowledge in the field of linguistics. You will obtain the general understanding of theoretical issues by considering how speech sounds are formed and organized, how words and sentences are formed and arranged, how language is used in society and what happens when there is more than one language used in the same country, etc. Linguistics requires logical thinking skills. Throughout the semester, we will look at different languages as well as English in order not only to be introduced to the linguistic diversity, but also to learn about human linguistic capacity. Materials provided in the first half of the semester are somewhat mathematical. Studying linguistics gives you not only the current linguistics contents but also critical thinking skills that are fundamental and highly respected in the academic and professional environments.

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand the basic terminology in linguistics, how sounds, words, phrases and sentences are formed and organized, and analyze linguistic data using standard methodologies
- Discuss the complexity and systematicity of human language in terms of a descriptive rather than prescriptive perspective
- Understand and discuss development in language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language in society and language diversity, language relatedness
- Understand the different among major types of writing systems development
- Understand the importance of *intergenerational connection* as well as *indigenous knowledge* from a perspective of sustainability

### Prerequisites (None)

### General University Requirements

This course satisfies the Social Science designation of the General Education University Requirement.

### Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

6 Homework 30% (5 x 6 Assignments)

Exam 1 20%

Exam 2 20%

Exam 3 20%

Group Project 10% (1 x 4 days + 6 report)

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	F	0-59%

- **Final exam** (cumulative) is optional. It replaces your lowest scored exam.
- No Pass/Fail option is available if you are taking this course to satisfy a requirement. You must be passing in order to be considered for an incomplete.
- There is **no extra credit opportunity** other than extra questions provided during the exams.

### Policies and Agreements

#### Attendance/Absence Policy

- Attending every class meeting is very important. The information given in class is not always the same as what is in the textbook.
- An attendance is taken in the beginning in class. When you are late, contact me after class and let me know that you are here. A phrase such as "I was there" later in the semester is not accepted.
- You are encouraged to turn in a document for your absence (e.g. a doctor's note, a letter from your instructor re: training/fieldtrip, etc.). Verbal communication is not guaranteed.

#### Moodle Use and Participation

- This course uses *moodle* the online supplement (<http://umonline.umn.edu>). **Handouts** and **homework assignments** are posted here. These materials are not distributed in class.

Class Preparation

- Lectures will be based on the book, handouts (on moodle) and other materials given in class.
- You are strongly recommended to print out the handouts and bring them to the class since most lectures follow what's on the handouts. Read the chapters, handouts *before* and *after* lectures.

Homework

- Homework assignments are collected in the beginning of the class. Download and print out homework sheets. Work on them and submit them by their due dates. Do not submit by email.
- Every homework assignment is graded for its quality. Most of them require you to "think." Be ready to dedicate your few hours for them. **Take it seriously** as if these assignments were take-home quizzes.

Assignment and Late Assignment Policy

- If you are arriving after the assignment collection, make sure that you turn in your work first.
- A late assignment may be considered for full points only under the condition when you contact me before the due date with a "considerable" reason (see general catalogue). In this case, you must individually set a new assignment due. A "considerable reason" follows the university policy described in the course catalogue including participating in university related events, academic conferences, injury, etc. You must tell me how your reason follows the policy.
- A late assignment without contacting me prior to the deadline is penalized. Any late assignment handed in is not guaranteed for being graded or even returned.

Makeup Exam Policy

- Makeup tests are given only when your reasons for missing the test meet the University's policy. For example, you may arrange a makeup exam when you miss a test for medical reason and submit a doctor's note. You will not be considered for a makeup exam for your family reunion, vacation, etc.
- Also, your individual necessity for studying is not considered a good reason. Please plan ahead of time.

Academic Misconduct ([http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php))

- All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.
- Academic misconduct is defined as all forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to:
 

1) Plagiarism	6) Submitting work previously presented in another course
2) Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise	7) Improperly influencing conduct
3) Unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials	8) Substituting, or arranging substitution, for another student during an examination or other academic exercise
4) Tampering with course materials	9) Facilitating academic dishonesty, and
5) Submitting false information	10) Altering transcripts, grades, examinations, or other academically related documents

DSS Service (<http://www.umt.edu/disability>)

- The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Textbook/readings

O'Grady, Dobrovolsky and Aronoff. (2010) Contemporary Linguistics. Sixth Edition.: St. Martin's.

- You are expected to do the reading before class at least once, and revisit the assigned chapter during the topic discussed. Read all pages, and read carefully the pages given in the schedule.

Recommended Readings

Pinker, Steven. (1995) The Language Instinct. NY: HarperPerennial.

Barry J. Blake. (2008) All About Language. Oxford.

Fromkin V., R. Rodman, and N. Hyams. (2007) *An Introduction to Language, 8th Ed.*: Heinle, Thomson.

## Schedule of the semester (Tentative)

The content on this syllabus may be modified.

Wk		Topic	Reading	Due	Notes
1	M Aug. 26	Introduction	pp1-13		
	W Aug. 28	Introduction			
	F Aug. 30	<i>The Linguists</i>			
2	M Sep. 2	<b>No Class</b> Labor Day			
	W Sep. 4	<i>The Linguists</i> (Cont.)			
	F Sep. 6	Phonetics			
3	M Sep. 9	Phonetics	pp15-58	HW 1 Phone (F)	
	W Sep. 11	Phonetics			
	F Sep. 13	Phonetics			
4	M Sep. 16	Phonology	pp59-113, p143	HW 2 Phonology (F)	Last day Cyberbear
	W Sep. 18	Phonology			
	F Sep. 20	Phonology			
5	M Sep. 23	Phonology			
	W Sep. 25	<b>Exam 1</b>			
	F Sep. 27	Morphology			
6	M Sep. 30	Morphology	pp115-153	HW 3 Morpho (W)	
	W Oct. 2	Morphology			
	F Oct. 4	Morphology			
7	M Oct. 7	Syntax	Fromkin et al.	HW 4 Syntax (M)	
	W Oct. 9	Syntax			
	F Oct. 11	Syntax			
8	M Oct. 14	Syntax	pp203-213		
	W Oct. 16	Semantics			
	F Oct. 18	<b>Exam 2</b>			
9	M Oct. 21	Language Change	pp245-296 pp297-331		
	W Oct. 23	Language Change			
	F Oct. 25	Language Change			
10	M Oct. 28	Language Acquisition	pp351-389 pp390-396 pp429-484	NW 5 Change (M)	
	W Oct. 30	Acquisition/Brain			
	F Nov. 1	Brain and Language			
11	M Nov. 4	Language and Society	pp485-526	HW 6 World's L (F)	
	W Nov. 6	Language and Society			
	F Nov. 8	Language and Society			
12	M Nov. 11	<b>No Class</b> Veteran's Day			
	W Nov. 13	Language and Society			
	F Nov. 15	Language and Society			
13	M Nov. 18	Writing and Language	pp545-567		
	W Nov. 20	<b>Exam 3</b>			
	F Nov. 22	In-Class Project Day 1			
14	M Nov. 25	In-Class Project Day 2	Handouts Objectives		
	W Nov. 27	<b>No Class</b>			
	F Nov. 29	<b>No Class</b>			
15	M Dec. 2	In-Class Project Day 3		Report Due	
	W Dec. 4	In-Class Project Day 4			
	F Dec. 6	Summary			
	M Dec. 9	<b>8-10AM (FA302)</b>			